

Clerk of the Superior Court SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Juan Pablo Guzman Clerk



News Release

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JURY COMMISSIONER CAUTIONS COMMUNITY ABOUT SCAM

Santa Cruz County, AZ – The Arizona Superior Court in Santa Cruz County has received several recent reports of jury service scams in Santa Cruz County. Someone falsely claiming to be a law enforcement officer or a representative of the Court has been calling Santa Cruz County residents advising they are being contacted for "failure to appear" for jury duty. The caller advises them that because they failed to report for jury duty one or more fines are owed. Residents are instructed to pay the fines by purchasing a Green Dot card or card(s) and are sometimes told to report to the courthouse or to the Sheriff's Office. The caller can be quite forceful and threatening.

The caller is not from the Superior Court or the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. The public should be aware that the Court and law enforcement officers will NEVER contact a person by telephone or email to demand payment of a fine to avoid being arrested for failing to appear for jury service. Do not make any payments, provide Green dot card numbers, credit card information or any other personal information, and never give out your social security number.

The Clerk of the Superior Court urges anyone contacted by potential scammers to immediately call the Jury Commissioner's Office at (520) 375-7700 to verify whether a jury summons is in effect.

Because this is a nationwide issue, if you receive a call from a scammer please file an online report with the Federal Trade Commission by going to www.ftc.gov and following the "File a Consumer Complaint" link. City of Nogales residents may also file a local Nogales Police Department report by calling (520) 287-9111 and Santa Cruz County residents may file a report by calling (520) 761-7869. If you have lost money, you should immediately contact your local law enforcement agency.

"It is important to note that in Santa Cruz County the Clerk of the Court and Jury Commissioner's Office reaches out to residents by sending them a Questionnaire and Notice which residents must complete via the internet or by hand and return it to our office by U.S Mail," said Clerk of the Court Juan Pablo Guzman. "Also, in Santa Cruz County citizens are summoned to appear for Jury Duty by phone; therefore, you may receive a phone call from our staff after you submit your Jury Questionnaire only to give you instructions regarding your appearance for Jury Selection. We strongly suggest verifying that the call is coming from our office."

The Santa Cruz Jury Commissioner's Office urges the community to verify that calls regarding Jury Issues are coming from the Clerk of the Court/Jury Commissioner's Office phone number (520) 375-7700. Also, if you receive a call from the Jury Office, the staff members must identify themselves. You may request to hang-up in order to call the (520) 375-7700 number to make sure that the call is valid. Jury Office personnel will only contact citizens to provide instruction on when and where to appear for Jury Selection and not to obtain money for failure to appear for Jury Service.